

1880
FLYING FORTRESSES --- THE MEN WHO BOMBED ROME.

2 That was Quentin Reynolds, who is now going to meet ~~the~~ ^{his} first group back from Rome; the air operation that has been discussed and debated ever since Italy declared war; the operation which was followed by such momentous events inside Italy.

4 You see those Fortresses, miles up, in the skies above almost every theatre of war. You hear of their large-scale daylight attacks and you read of the numbers of enemy fighters they shoot down. The following film shows them in action and illustrates their tremendous gun power; ~~the~~ top-turret guns --- nose guns --- ~~the~~ ^{each} firing approximately 650 rounds a minute --- the ball turret, underneath the fuselage --- one of the waist guns --- and the tail.

Despite all those guns and the normal crew of ten, the Fortresses are big enough to carry also a huge weight of bombs. Exact figures are not ~~known~~ for publication; but this is the kind of thing that has been falling on places like Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, and ~~the~~ Hamburg. They are making ~~the~~ ^{ever} deeper penetration into Hitler's Reich. As for man-power, it is no uncommon thing for more than a thousand American airmen to be flying over enemy territory in one operation; sometimes two thousand and sometimes even more.

In the series of flights that follow, you will see those guns in action against German fighters; and the bombs crashing down on such places as St. Nazaire and Kiel and Antwerp. Much of the action material was taken on 16 millimetre film and enlarged; we hope you will forgive some poor quality film because of its high quality action value.

4 PM.
3/8/43 Mr. Beckington.